

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2720

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS CANBERRA 2001

DEPARTMENT PASS USIA AND MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

FROM USDEL ANTARCTIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XV, EFIS

SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC TREATY: PRESS STATEMENT ON THE SECOND SPECIAL
ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

REFERENCE: CANBERRA 01980

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THE PRESS STATEMENT RELEASED MARCH 16 BY
THE SECOND SPECIAL ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING WHICH
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MET IN CANBERRA FROM FEBRUARY 27 TO MARCH 16:

"PRESS STATEMENT: THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SECOND SPECIAL ANTAR-
CTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING, WHICH CONCLUDED IN CANBERRA ON
16 MARCH, MADE VERY USEFUL PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ELABORATION OF A
DRAFT DEFINITIVE REGIME FOR ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES.
THE MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE MEETING WAS THE PRODUCTION OF AN
INFORMAL TEXT WHICH WILL BE USED AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIAT-

IONS AT A RESUMED SESSION OF THE MEETING LATER THIS YEAR.

"DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE INCREASING INTEREST BEING SHOWN IN THE LIVING RESOURCES FOUND IN ANTARCTIC WATERS, THE MEETING STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT. THE THIRTEEN CONSULTATIVE PARTIES - BEING THOSE COUNTRIES PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN THE ANTARCTIC - HAD THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE ANTARCTIC AND ITS LIVING RESOURCES. IN THE 19 YEARS SINCE THE ANTARCTIC TREATY WAS SIGNED, THEY HAD ALREADY TAKEN A NUMBER OF MEASURES WITHIN THE TREATY FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF ANTARCTIC FLORA AND FAUNA. THEY RENEWED THEIR COMMITMENT TO ESTABLISH A DEFINITIVE INTERNATIONAL REGIME FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES BEFORE THE END OF 1978.

"A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF PROPOSALS WERE EXAMINED AT THE MEETING, INCLUDING THE TEXTS OF A NUMBER OF DRAFT CONVENTIONS. THESE FORMED THE BASIS OF ITS WORK. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING (MR. J.R. ROWLAND, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) TABLED A SINGLE INFORMAL TEXT REFLECTING THE CHAIRMAN'S ASSESSMENT OF THE MAIN ELEMENTS IN THE VARIOUS APPROACHES SUGGESTED. THIS DOCUMENT WAS REVISED IN THE COURSE OF THE MEETING TO REFLECT TRENDS WHICH EMERGED AS THE DISCUSSIONS PROCEEDED.

"THE DISCUSSIONS REVEALED MUCH COMMON GROUND IN THE POSITIONS OF THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES AND A COMMON AGREEMENT THAT A COMMISSION
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ON THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. THERE WAS A WIDE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT ON THE FUNCTIONS OF SUCH A BODY.

"A COMMON ELEMENT IN THE POSITIONS OF DELEGATIONS WAS THE NEED FOR THE CONVENTION TO CONTAIN A NUMBER OF AGREED PRINCIPLES OF CONSERVATION WHICH SHOULD BE APPLIED BY THE COMMISSION. IT WAS ALSO RECOGNISED THAT IN CARRYING OUT ITS FUNCTION THE COMMISSION WOULD REQUIRE THE SUPPORT OF A SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD BE A SOURCE OF INFORMED AND OBJECTIVE ADVICE TO THE COMMISSION.

"THERE WAS ALSO AGREEMENT THAT THE CONVENTION SHOULD REFLECT CLOSE LINKS WITH THE ANTARCTIC TREATY. THERE WOULD BE A NEED TO HARMONISE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION IN THE FIELD OF CONSERVATION OF MARINE LIVING RESOURCES WITH THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE PARTIES FOR THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT. IT WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS FAO, WHOSE CO-OPERATION WOULD BE IMPORTANT.

"WORK STILL REMAINS TO BE DONE ON IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE REGIME

AND IN PREPARATION FOR A DECISIVE MEETING TO ADOPT A CONVENTION.
THE MEETING WELCOMED THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA
FOR THE SESSION TO CONTINUE ITS WORK AT A RESUMED SESSION IN
BUENOS AIRES IN JULY. THE AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE EXTENDED AN
INVITATION ON BEHALF OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO HOST AT AN
APPROPRIATE STAGE A DEFINITIVE MEETING TO ADOPT THE CONVENTION."
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